

towards which all the wealth of the world was drawn. There was no reverse current of goods. What went out from Rome was government, — peace, order, and security. The provinces probably for a time made a good bargain, although the price was high. In the earliest times slaves were used for housework, but were few in number per household. In 150 B.C. a patrician left to his son only ten. Crassus had more than five hundred. C. Caec. Claudius, in the time of Augustus, had 4116.¹ In the early days a father and his sons cultivated a holding together. Slaves were used when more help was needed. There was one slave to three sons and they lived in constant association of work and play. When conquest rendered slaves numerous and cheap, free laborers disappeared.² Ti. Semp. Gracchus, in 177 B.C., after the war in Sardinia, sold so many Sardinian slaves that "cheap as a Sardinian" became a proverb.³ His son Tiberius is reported to have been led into his agrarian enterprise by noticing that the lands of Etruria were populated only by a few slaves of foreign birth.⁴ Biicher⁵ puts together the following statistics of persons reduced to slavery about 200 B.C. : after the capture of Tarentum (209 B.C.), 30,000; in 207 B.C., 5400; in 200 B.C., 15,000.⁶ Roman slaves were not allowed to marry until a late date. They were systematically worked as hard as it was possible to make them work, and were sold or exposed to perish when too old to work. Such was the policy taught by the older Cato.⁷ The number on the market was always great; the price was low; it was more advantageous to work them so hard that they had no time or strength to plot revolts. This is the most cynical refusal to regard slaves as human beings which can be found

in history.
 They were liable to be tortured in their owners' cases in court.
 They might be given over to the gladiatorial shows and set to fight each other, or wild beasts. Seventy-eight gladiators condemned to fight to the death revolted in 74 B.C. under Spartacus,

¹ Drumann, *Arbeiter und Commicnisten* ^ 155. ³ Livy, XLI, 28, 8.

² Bender, *Rom*, 150, 159.

* Plutarch, *Ti. Gracchus*, 8.

⁶ *Aufstande d. Unfreien Arbeiter*, 36.

⁶ Livy, XXVII, 16; XXVIII, 9; XXXI, 21.

⁷ *De Agri Cultura* ^ 2, 7; Plutarch, *Cato*, 5; Schmidt, *Societe" Civile dans k Monde Romain* ^ 93.